

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BONN 07318 01 OF 03 281517Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 INR-07 L-03
ACDA-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 SS-15 PRS-01 SP-02 USIA-06
TRSE-00 NSC-05 EB-08 FAA-00 DOTE-00 /072 W
-----281743Z 029815 /50

P R 281508Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7772
SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY
INFO USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS
USNMR SHAPE
CINC EUR VAIHINGEN
CINC USAREUR HEIDELBERG
CINC USAFE RAMSTEIN
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 03 BONN 07318

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MPOL, NATO, MARR, MILI, GW
SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR'S TOUR D'HORIZON WITH MINISTER OF
DEFENSE LEBER

BEGIN SUMMARY: THE AMBASSADOR MET WITH MINISTER OF
DEFENSE LEBER ON APRIL 26 FOR A TOUR D'HORIZON. THE
MINISTER'S COMMENTS ON AWACS AND THE TANK GUN ISSUE
HAVE BEEN REPORTED SEPARATELY (AWACS IN AN EXDIS
MESSAGE). IN ADDITION TO THESE SUBJECTS, THEY DISCUSSED
AIR SPACE CONGESTION AND USAFE TRAINING IN THE FRG, THE
POSSIBILITY OF THE FRG UNDERTAKING OPERATION AND MAIN-
TENANCE SUPPORT FOR USAREUR ON A REIMBURSABLE BASIS,
POSSIBLE USAFE JOINT USE WITH THE FRG OF THE BEJA AIR
BASE IN PORTUGAL, AND THE MAY 3 CORNERSTONE LAYING CERE-
MONY FOR THE U.S. NORTHAG BRIGADE. MINISTER LEBER
INDICATED HIS USUAL WILLINGNESS TO BE AS HELPFUL AS
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BONN 07318 01 OF 03 281517Z

POSSIBLE TO THE U.S. FORCES. END SUMMARY.

1. NORTHAG BRIGADE CEREMONY. ON MAY 3, MINISTER LEBER
WILL LAY THE CORNERSTONE FOR THE U.S. NORTHAG BRIGADE
TO BE STATIONED NEAR GARLSTEDT. AFTER EXPRESSING
PLEASURE THAT THE AMBASSADOR WOULD BE PRESENT, THE MINIS-
TER REGRETTED THAT GENERAL HAIG WOULD NOT BE AVAILABLE.

WHEN THE AMB ASSADOR NOTED THAT GENERAL HAIG WOULD BE REPRESENTED BY THE DEPUTY SUPREME ALLIED COMMANDER EUROPE, GENERAL SIR HARRY TUZO, MINISTER LEBER RETORTED SOMEWHAT ACIDLY THAT HE WOULD LIKE THE BRITISH GENERAL EVEN MORE WERE THE OCCASION ONE TO WELCOME A NEW UK BRIGADE. (EMBASSY COMMENT: THIS IS ONLY ONE OF SEVERAL OCCASIONS WHEN MINISTER LEBER INDICATED DIS-SATISFACTION WITH THE UK.)

2. AIR SPACE CONGESTION. GENERAL ELLIS, CINC USAFE, HAD SPOKEN RECENTLY WITH MINISTER LEBER ABOUT THE SEVERE PROBLEMS OF COORDINATION AND DATA TRANSFER BETWEEN THE VARIOUS AUTHORITIES RESPONSIBLE FOR THE CONTROL OF AIR-CRAFT IN THE CONGESTED FRG AIR SPACE. RECENT PRESS ACCOUNTS DRAMATIZED THE POSSIBILITY OF MID-AIR COLLISIONS AND HAS LED TO PROPOSALS FOR USAFE DRASTICALLY TO REDUCE ITS PRACTICE INTERCEPTS IN FRG AIR SPACE. THE AMBASSADOR REFERRED TO GENERAL ELLIS'S DISCUSSIONS WITH MINISTER LEBER AND EXPRESSED THE EMBASSY'S DESIRE TO BE OF ASSISTANCE IN SOLVING WHATEVER PROBLEMS MIGHT EXIST IN THIS AREA.

MINISTER LEBER REMARKED THAT HE WOULD BE MEETING WITH THE MINISTER OF TRANSPORT ON THIS SUBJECT APRIL 28. NOTING THAT THE FRG HAS THE BUSIEST AIR ROUTES IN THE WORLD, HE EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT MEANS WOULD BE FOUND TO MAKE THE AIR TRAFFIC PROBLEM MANAGEABLE. FOR THIS, COMPROMISE WOULD BE NECESSARY ON ALL SIDES. AS FAR AS HE WAS CONCERNED, MILITARY AIRCRAFT MUST KEEP FLYING

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 BONN 07318 01 OF 03 281517Z

AND THAT INCLUDED TRAINING FLIGHTS. AT THE SAME TIME, SOME FORM OF ORGANIZATION WOULD BE NECESSARY IN AND ABOUT LARGE CITIES IN ORDER TO SYNCHRONIZE TIME AND SPACE REQUIREMENTS. THE TIME TO ADDRESS THE ISSUE IS NOW, NOT AFTER AN ACCIDENT OCCURS WHEN THERE WOULD BE GREAT PRESSURE TO REACH AN IMMEDIATE SOLUTION.

THE AMBASSADOR INDICATED OUR HOPES OF ACHIEVING A MORE BALANCED PRESS TREATMENT BY MEANS OF EXPLANATIONS AND DISCUSSIONS WITH THE MEDIA. HE EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT USAFE AND THE GERMAN DEFENSE MINISTRY COULD WORK TOGETHER ON THIS. MINISTER LEBER APPEARED TO ACQUIESCE, NOTING THAT IT WAS A MILITARY PROBLEM AND NOT AN AMERICAN OR GERMAN PROBLEM. A SOLUTION MUST BE SOUGHT WHICH WOULD SATISFY ALL CONCERNED.

3. POSSIBLE JOINT USE OF BEJA AIR BASE. THE AMBASSADOR REFERRED TO ANOTHER TOPIC WHICH GENERAL ELLIS HAD RAISED WITH MINISTER LEBER: POSSIBLE USAFE OPERATIONS FROM THE

FRG AIR BASE AT BEJA, PORTUGAL, IN ORDER TO PERFORM AIR
COMBAT EXERCISES USING THE AIR COMBAT MANEUVERING

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BONN 07318 02 OF 03 281516Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 INR-07 L-03
ACDA-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 SS-15 PRS-01 SP-02 USIA-06
TRSE-00 NSC-05 EB-08 FAA-00 DOTE-00 /072 W
-----281744Z 029812 /50

P R 281508Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7773
SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY
INFO USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS
USNMR SHAPE
CINC EUR VAIHINGEN
CINC USAREUR HEIDELBERG
CINC USAFE RAMSTEIN
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 03 BONN 07318

INSTRUMENTATION (ACMI) SYSTEM. SINCE MINISTER LEBER
HAD EXPRESSED SOME DISQUIET THAT POLITICAL PROBLEMS
MIGHT NOT PROPERLY BE ADDRESSED, THE AMBASSADOR TOOK THE
OCCASION TO ASSURE THE MINISTER THAT HE WAS FOLLOWING
THESE SENSITIVITIES CLOSELY. LEBER SAID HE HAD
APPROVED THE IDEA IN PRINCIPLE, BUT THAT HE HAD WARNED
GENERAL ELLIS THAT HIS APPROVAL WAS NOT ENOUGH: THE
PORTUGUESE GOVERNMENT MUST ALSO GIVE ITS APPROVAL SINCE
THIS WAS HARDLY JUST A U.S./FRG PROBLEM.

THE AMBASSADOR AGREED AND NOTED THAT AMBASSADOR
CARLUCCI WAS ALSO IN CLOSE TOUCH WITH THE PROJECT.
NOTING THAT THE AMBASSADOR AND HE APPEARED TO BE IN
AGREEMENT, MINISTER LEBER ADDED THAT, SHOULD THE U.S.
DECIDE TO PROCEED WITH THE MATTER, IT MIGHT BE HELPFUL
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BONN 07318 02 OF 03 281516Z

IF U.S. DESIRES WERE TO BE PRESENTED TO THE FRG IN A MORE FORMAL WRITTEN FASHION.

4. THE POSSIBILITY OF THE FRG UNDERTAKING OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE SUPPORT FOR USAREUR ON A REIMBURSABLE BASIS.

THE AMBASSADOR NOTED THAT GENERAL WUST, INSPECTOR GENERAL OF THE FEDERAL ARMED FORCES, HAD BEEN IN TOUCH WITH GENERAL BLANCHARD, CINC USAREUR, CONCERNING THE PROPOSAL THAT THE STANDORTVERWALTUNG (STOV) PROVIDE ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT FOR USAREUR BASES IN THE SAME WAY IT SUPPORTS BUNDESWEHR BASES. SINCE USAREUR WOULD REIMBURSE STOV FOR THE SERVICES IT PROVIDES, THE AMBASSADOR NOTED THAT IT WOULD NOT BE A BURDEN ON THE GERMAN TAXPAYER BUT WOULD IMPROVE USAREUR'S COMBAT EFFECTIVENESS. FINALLY, HE NOTED THAT THIS PROPOSAL HAD HIS PERSONAL SUPPORT AND SUGGESTED THAT IT WOULD BE HELPFUL IF THE WORKING LEVEL PEOPLE COULD GET TOGETHER IN ORDER TO WORK OUT DETAILS ONCE THE NECESSARY POLITICAL LEVEL APPROVAL HAD BEEN GRANTED.

MINISTER LEBER STATED THAT HE COULD GIVE APPROVAL IN PRINCIPLE. NATURALLY IT WOULD HAVE TO BE DONE ON A REIMBURSABLE BASIS. (EMBASSY COMMENT: ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS, MINISTER LEBER REFERRED TO REIMBURSEMENT, PERHAPS INDICATING A FEAR THAT THIS PROPOSAL MIGHT HIDE SOME SORT OF NEW OFFSET ARRANGEMENT WHICH WOULD BURDEN THE GERMAN TAXPAYER).

MINISTER LEBER WENT ON TO SAY THAT WORKING OUT THE DETAILS OF A STOV SUPPORT ARRANGEMENT WOULD REQUIRE TIME. THE DEFENSE MINISTRY IS IN THE PROCESS OF

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BONN 07318 03 OF 03 281519Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 INR-07 L-03
ACDA-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 SS-15 PRS-01 SP-02 USIA-06

TRSE-00 NSC-05 EB-08 FAA-00 DOTE-00 /072 W

-----281743Z 029859 /50

P R 281508Z APR 77

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7774

SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY

INFO USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

USNMR SHAPE

CINC EUR VAIHINGEN

CINC USAREUR HEIDELBERG

CINC USAFE RAMSTEIN

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 03 OF 03 BONN 07318

REORGANIZING ITS ARMY STRUCTURE. AS YET, THE FINAL SHAPE THE ARMY WOULD TAKE IS UNCLEAR. THE MINISTER WENT ON TO SAY IT MIGHT BE USEFUL IF THE DEFENSE MINISTRY COULD HAVE SOME PRECISE IDEAS FROM USAREUR FOR POSSIBLE INCORPORATION IN THE NEW STRUCTURE OF THE BUNDESWEHR.

THE AMBASSADOR ASSURED MINISTER LEBER THAT ANYTHING DONE BY STOV ON BEHALF OF USAREUR WOULD BE AGAINST REIMBURSEMENT. THE MINISTER INDICATED THE FRG'S POLITICAL WILLINGNESS TO MOVE IN THIS DIRECTION. IN HIS OPINION, IT WAS NOW UP TO THE EXPERTS TO IMPLEMENT THIS DECISION.

5. LEBER'S MID-MARCH VISIT TO THE U.S.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BONN 07318 03 OF 03 281519Z

DURING HIS CONVERSATION WITH THE AMBASSADOR, MINISTER LEBER ASKED ONE OF HIS AIDES TO GET A PICTURE WHICH HE HAD RECENTLY RECEIVED FROM WASHINGTON. LEBER PROUDLY SHOWED THE AMBASSADOR THIS PHOTOGRAPH, WHICH REVEALED HIM IN THE COMPANY OF THE PRESIDENT, SECRETARY VANCE, SECRETARY BROWN, ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT FOR NATIONAL SECURITY AFFAIRS BRZEZINSKI, ENERGY ADVISOR TO THE PRESIDENT SCHLESINGER, AND OTHER NOTABLES. THE FACT THAT MINISTER LEBER TOOK SUCH PRIDE IN THE PHOTOGRAPH IS YET ANOTHER INDICATION OF THE POSITIVE EFFECT THAT THE HIGH-LEVEL TREATMENT HE RECEIVED IN WASHINGTON HAD UPON HIM.

STOESSEL

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AWACS, DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS, MILITARY PLANS, WARNING SYSTEMS, TANKS (COMBAT VEHICLES)
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 28-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977BONN07318
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770148-1246
Format: TEL
From: BONN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770411/aaaaaivt.tel
Line Count: 276
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: ca303e9c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 6
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10-Dec-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2671506
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: AMBASSADOR'S TOUR D'HORIZON WITH MINISTER OF DEFENSE LEBER BEGIN SUMMARY: THE AMBASSADOR MET WITH MINISTER O
TAGS: MPOL, MARR, MILI, GE, NATO, (LEBER, GEORG)
To: STATE DOD
Type: TE
vdkgvkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/ca303e9c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009